(c) if so, whether suitable additional central assistance for the sake of all entitled beneficiaries would be provided to be state of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB. M.K..PATIL): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission allocates funds to States/UTs for the transferred Schemes of Annapurna and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) (which consisted of National Old Age Pension Scheme and National Family Benefit Scheme). These funds are then released by the Ministry of Finance as Additional Central Assistance. These schemes were transferred to the State Plan w.e.f. 1-4-2002. As per the existing guidelines regarding transferred Schemes (National Social Assistance Programme and Annapurna) States and Union Territories have requisite flexibility in the choice and the implementation of these Schemes. The Additional Central Assistance provided to the States/UTs under these programmes can be utilised on Welfare Schemes of Old Age Pension, Family Benefit or free foodgrains to the aged by taking up one or two or all of the three or in any other combination in accordance with their own priorities and needs.

(c) Under transferred Rs.54.05 crores have been allocated to the Madhya Pradesh during the year 2003-04.

Preparation of BPL list

2512. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the BPL list is not prepared on merit by the Block Officers;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of total families included in BPL list; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in Korai, Jaipur, Badachana, Danagudi, Dharamshala, Rasalpur, Bigharpur, Dasrathpur, Bani and Sukinda Blocks of Jaipur district people are included in poverty alleviation programme even though their names are not in BPL list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development have advised all the State Governments/ UT Administrations not to finalise the BPL list unitl the next hearing of the Supreme Court in People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) Writ Petition No. 196 of 2001 following direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Transfer of Power to Panchayats

2513. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Seventy-Third Amendment to the Constitution stipulated the transfer of power and functions to Panchayati institutions as a part of the decentralization processes;

(b) if so, the action taken and progress with respect of the transfer of funds, functions and functionaries to Panchayati Raj bodies, State-wise as on date; and

(c) whether there is any suggestion to amend the Constitution to develop financial powers to Panchayats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In terms of Articles 243-G and 243-H of the Constitution States may by law devolve administrative and financial authority and power on Panchayats, including in terms of devolution of the 29 subjects listed in the Schedule XI. The Ministry of Rural Development has been urging the States and Union Territories to devolve funds, functions and functionaries and financial powers through correspondence, meetings and conferences with Ministers etc. A Statement showing the devolution of 29 subjects is placed (See below).

(c) and (d) The suggestion of an amendment is being examined.